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THE LONGEVITY OF YALE GRADUATES,

As Shown by the Publication of *Living Graduates of Yale University*, 1912.

By J. T. LOVEWELL.

A DIRECTORY of living graduates has been issued in the last year from Yale University, and from it may be gleaned some facts which are of interest as showing the duration of life among college graduates.

The history of Yale goes back far enough to show the extinction of early classes, and we find up to the class of 1839 all are gone; and this class is represented by a single member, Dr. David F. Atwater, of Springfield, Mass., who at present has the distinction of being the oldest living Yale graduate. His class graduated 95, seventy-four years ago. The classes of '41 and '42 have each a single member remaining, and the class of '40 has only two, but coming to later dates the number increases.

In this paper only graduates in the arts course are considered. It is an interesting fact that those enrolled as graduates of Yale College (bachelors of arts) number 16,812, and of these there are living 8647, and deceased 8165, thus dividing the living and the dead graduates of Yale into two very nearly equal numbers.

So far the greater number is on the side of the living, but as the years go on these figures are bound to shift, and most of the graduates of Yale, as of all other people, will have gone to join the "great majority." This condition would have been reached sooner in Yale only owing to the fact that the later classes of Yale far outnumber the earlier. Thus the class of '39 enrolled only 95 members, while the average enrollment of the last five classes is over 316.

In the accompanying table is shown opposite the date of classes, beginning with 1839, the total enrollment, the number living, and the percentage of the latter to the former. By making these percentages the ordinates to a curve whose abscissas mark the years of graduation, we have a sort of curve which shows at a glance how the expectation of life diminishes as the years roll on, and we reach the ground in about seventy-five years at the farthest. At this limit the graduates have attained a longevity of more than ninety years.

CLASS.	Total enrolled.	Living.	Per cent.	CLASS.	Total enrolled.	Living.	Per cent.
1839.....	95	1	1.05	1876.....	126	80	63.5
1840.....	106	2	1.90	1877.....	120	96	80.0
1841.....	79	1	1.27	1878.....	132	92	70.0
1842.....	110	1	0.9	1879.....	138	104	75.3
1843.....	96	2	2.1	1880.....	122	95	77.8
1844.....	105	5	4.8	1881.....	130	100	76.9
1845.....	75	4	5.3	1882.....	122	98	80.0
1846.....	83	2	2.4	1883.....	152	123	80.9
1847.....	124	7	5.6	1884.....	152	126	82.2
1848.....	88	8	9.1	1885.....	125	109	80.7
1849.....	96	10	10.5	1886.....	139	113	81.3
1850.....	86	11	13.7	1887.....	150	123	82.0
1851.....	93	13	14.0	1888.....	125	108	86.1
1852.....	95	10	10.5	1889.....	124	108	87.1
1853.....	110	20	11.8	1890.....	146	139	95.0
1854.....	102	16	15.7	1891.....	185	165	89.2
1855.....	92	17	17.4	1892.....	181	163	90.1
1856.....	97	23	23.5	1893.....	184	160	87.0
1857.....	107	27	24.2	1894.....	238	213	89.5
1858.....	105	28	26.2	1895.....	250	229	91.0
1859.....	107	30	28.0	1896.....	278	257	92.4
1860.....	112	36	32.1	1897.....	275	253	92.0
1861.....	97	35	36.0	1898.....	300	381	93.6
1862.....	100	42	42.0	1899.....	298	274	91.9
1863.....	129	52	40.3	1900.....	320	304	95.0
1864.....	112	59	50.2	1901.....	253	236	93.2
1865.....	102	57	50.0	1902.....	291	286	98.4
1866.....	98	53	54.0	1903.....	316	300	94.9
1867.....	106	55	50.2	1904.....	286	282	98.4
1868.....	110	53	48.2	1905.....	288	281	97.5
1869.....	116	61	54.3	1906.....	295	279	94.5
1870.....	120	69	57.9	1907.....	356	345	96.9
1871.....	105	66	63.0	1908.....	339	333	98.2
1872.....	133	84	63.1	1909.....	310	308	99.3
1873.....	114	82	71.9	1910.....	309?	?	?
1874.....	124	95	76.6	1911.....	296	295	99.6
1875.....	97	57	58.7	1912.....	284	284	100.0

The death rate is low for a few years succeeding graduation, as might be expected of young men in the prime of life. As the years go on the curve drops down and shows that about 50 per cent survive forty to forty-five years after graduation. It takes about twenty years to cut down the first 10 per cent of a class. Ten per cent more will be gone in about fourteen years more. An equal period will now remove as many as 20 per cent, while, as said above, 50 per cent will be dead in another ten years. As we approach the limit of seventy-five years the percentage of loss grows less, for at this period there are generally a few cases of extreme longevity, and these withered leaves drop off more slowly.

From thirty-five to fifty years after graduation there is witnessed a period of great irregularity, as if the vital forces of men's lives were often exhausted, and we might conclude that frequently they live too fast and the decay is not steady and normal. Probably we could with a more complete record and with similar statistics from other colleges draw other interesting conclusions.

